



*Housing Authority employees are mourning the loss of one of our own, Edward Jaime Alcala, who passed away on March 5. We all know what he meant to us, in terms of his role as the Maintenance Administrative Assistant, but I wanted to share a more personal perspective from one of our residents. Edward guided her to join the Family Self-Sufficiency program at Chapultepec. Her memories tell us so much more about what we have all lost.*

## REMEMBERING EDWARD

I remember 2013. It was the first time we ever met. I didn't leave the best first impression on you, but you didn't judge me. You still showed me so much respect. I was so young-minded at one point in my life ...no kids no responsibilities...not a care in the world. I didn't have a clue what I was doing with my life . . . until I became pregnant

with my first child, Amya Emeri. Because she was my first child, I was so anxious to have her and I felt so lost. One night I kept having non-stop contractions. And boy were those contractions painful! You didn't hesitate to drive me to the Kyle hospital three times that night, until they told me "Roxy it's time to have us a baby."

I remember you and my mom smiling non-stop because how excited y'all were to be grandparents for the first time. After having Amya, you came into my room. All happy and nervous but at the same time you were ready to hold her. I'll never forget the smile on your face when you held her in your arms for the first time. I knew right there and then that you would love her forever. You never got to have any kids of your own so I was thankful to share this first time parenting with you. You were both a grandfather and father in my kids' eyes. From the moment they were born, you were always so patient with them, even on the days I wasn't. You never let my girls feel left out when it came to Father occasions. Amya, Khloe, and Evie were so blessed to have you fill that part for them. They never felt like they didn't have a father. Especially Amya who was so happy that she had you to take her to the Father-Daughter Dance. You had a different, but beautiful bond with each of my daughters.



Edward and granddaughter, Amya

You played such a big role in my life and in the lives of my kids. From teaching my girls how to ride a bike for the first time, to pulling out the pool on a hot sunny day while cooking it up in your barbecue pit and playing your kind of music, to you walking them to school on their first day. You were there for everything for my girls. You made it on time to all their school performances, no matter what you had going on at work. You always put them first. I remember seeing you tear up the day Amya graduated from pre-K. You were so proud of her. You always reminded my girls how smart and beautiful they were. Every Halloween we would always make it fun for the girls. Like that time Grandma kept changing costumes in the house. During the pandemic, she even dressed like you. Ha-ha! We couldn't stop laughing. And every Christmas, whatever I couldn't get, you were always there to get it so the girls had what they wanted on their check list.

I'll also never forget a time when I was at my lowest – feeling weak and empty after losing my dearest friend, Breana Martinez. You lifted me out of depression on multiple occasions. You showed me the strength that I never knew I had. You always pushed me to do better. Even when I felt like I couldn't move. If it wasn't for you pushing me so hard, I wouldn't have the things I have today, like the strength to let some things go and to enjoy life every day like it's my last and being positive within myself. Your words helped me have a better and grown-up mindset throughout the years.

I appreciate everything you have ever done for me and my girls. They still cry for you so much because of how much they love you. I always remind them that you are in a better place now . . . and rockin' out with the angels. Khloe sometimes grabs her guitar – the one you customized for her – and starts singing out of the blue while sitting in her room. She always asks, "Mommy, you think Grandpa can hear me singing from heaven?" I always tell her, "He's sitting here with us listening to you now."

I was beyond thankful and blessed to have someone like you in my life. Thank you for always being there for us no matter what. We will never forget you. And we love and miss you every day.

~Roxanne Louise Garcia



## ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

### Piece of Mind



Ms. Helen Rodriguez (L), the oldest resident at Allen Woods at age 97, is with her daughter Gloria waiting the 15 minutes after getting their first round of Covid vaccinations. The Housing Authority teamed up with the Health Department to provide an opportunity for those that wanted and qualified for the vaccine (ages 65+ or have chronic medical conditions) to receive it in their neighborhood site. Before Covid, Ms. Rodriguez was taking morning walks around the neighborhood, attending bingos, and being visited by neighbors. For more than a year, Ms. Helen has stayed in isolation, visited only by some of her family, but connecting with the neighborhood with at-home bingos. The isolation imposed by the response to Covid has been a challenge for her, but receiving the vaccine has given her and her daughter more peace of mind. We hope to see her active in the community again soon.

### Fun Among Us

Imagine you're in space, doing your job, and suddenly, someone is murdered. Eek! Teen Night was a live version of the game *Among Us*, a murder-mystery game where one or more of the players are imposters. You must expose them before they kill everyone with a poke. The PODER Learning Center was transformed into a spaceship. The teens had to perform tasks in different rooms to solve the mystery. After all the fun, the teens talked about how to cope with the unexpected, like what happens when you accuse an innocent person and the murderer gets away with . . . well, murder.



### Game Nights

Texas State Recreation students Fletcher Burchell and Joshua Wheeler are hosting a series of Game Nights for the kids until the end of the school year. Kids get to compete in video games, take pictures at a photo booth,



and participate in outdoor games and activities. Join us for Game Nights on April 13 and 27. Call Maria at 512-396-3367 for more details.



## *Springtown Villa*



### **Balloon Volleyball**

Balloon Volleyball is a great way to make friends and get in a little exercise. There is a rule in balloon volleyball that says you cannot stand up, so you have to stretch as much as you can. This a really fun way to stretch your back and shoulders. It's a great way to engage your core muscles too.

### **Covid-19 Vaccine**

Thank you to all the members of the FMREMS (First Medical Response / Emergency Medical Services) for organizing and administering the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine to our residents. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication. Front-line workers are indeed essential.



### **By-Laws**

In March, the by-laws for the Resident Council were revised, voted on, and signed by the officers. We are grateful to their dedication to making the Resident Council the best it can be. Thank you also to all the residents that attended the ceremony as witnesses.



# C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



## WE ARE PROUD OF OUR FORMER KAD MEMBER. WORK HARD AND MAKE IT HAPPEN!

My brother, Javier Dominguez, has always been diligent, independent, and dedicated to accomplishing his goals. Before enlisting in the Marines, he was an outstanding role model in his place of work during the summer. He displayed strong leadership skills, passion for his job and nature, as well as having fun while working. As his sister, I am truly honored and proud of having such a hard-working brother. One of the best moments I shared with my brother was witnessing him becoming a Marine. It has been over a year since my brother began his journey to earning the title of a United States Marine. His hard work paid off upon completing training in December of 2019 where he was able to walk on the parade deck to honor his achievements along with fellow Marines.

Prior to graduation, my brother received a meritorious promotion to Private First Class, which

made my family proud. Upon completing training, he proceeded to further develop his skills and gain a military occupation. In August 2020, he received a promotion to Lance Corporal. Regardless of the global pandemic, my brother has continued to work hard by setting high standards for himself. He is looking forward to expanding his military experience through travel opportunities in the future. I am proud of my brother. He is a great role model and I am beyond excited to see what the future holds for him.

*Michelle Dominguez*



**Pyramid of Friendship** featuring Mea, Annabelle, Nevaeh.



### Job Readiness Class

*April 13*

*10 AM - 12 PM*

### BINGO IS BACK!

*Every Wednesday*

*1:30 PM*

*(Limited to 8 persons,  
first-come, first-serve)*



## CHAPULTEPEC HOMES &amp; ADULT LEARNING CENTER

# Spring Break



During Spring Break our after-school program had a busy week! We teamed up with the PODER after-school program to meet new friends and enjoy three days of great field trips!



From water fights to cave exploration, our kids had an educational and fun-filled Spring Break experience! We played at the Playscape in Children's Park, had an action-packed water day at PODER, and had an educational adventure at Wonder World Park.

## Teen Night



We are now working with PODER to provide Teen Night for our teens. This will be an event every month for teens to socialize with each other and have fun! The next Teen Night will be **Wednesday, April 21**. Contact Matt if your teen is interested!

## Upcoming Events

FSS Classes and other events are returning to the Chapultepec Adult Learning Center! The presenters may be in-person or on a live video stream. Keep a lookout for upcoming events!

April

2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

The Romans gave this month the Latin name Aprilis but the derivation of this name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb aperire, "to open," it being the season when trees and flowers grow and bloom. April was sacred to the goddess Venus (the Veneralia was celebrated on April 1) so perhaps it was originally called Aphrilis, from her equivalent Greek goddess name, Aphrodite (Aphros), or from the Etruscan name Apru. The Anglo-Saxons called April ēastre-monap (easter month), which is derived from earlier Germanic roots celebrating Ostara, the goddess of the dawn or the east.



2 SMHA  
OFFICES  
CLOSED

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27 Board of  
Commissioners  
5:30 PM

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**LEADERSHIP****Board of Commissioners**

Richard Cruz — Chairperson

Gloria Salazar — Vice-Chairperson

Nina Linda Ramos — Commissioner

Rachel Durrance — Resident Comm.

Mittie Miller — Commissioner

**Executive Director**

Lana Wagner

**HOUSING OFFICES****Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)**

512-353-5059

**CM Allen Homes**

512-353-1116

**Chapultepec Homes**

512-396-3364

**Housing Choice Voucher**

512-353-5061

**Springtown Villa**

512-396-3363

**RESIDENT SERVICES****Chapultepec Adult Learning Center****Family Self-Sufficiency**

512-396-3364

**CM Allen KAD Korner Store**

512-392-6273

**Allen Woods PODER****Learning Center**

512-396-3367

**Springtown Villa**

512-353-7343